

# Catamount Spirit



PUBLISHED FOR ALUMNI, FRIENDS & EMPLOYEES OF POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

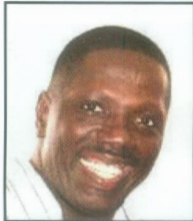
April 2013 • Volume 14, Issue 1

## IN THIS ISSUE

Students Attend National Convention • Changes in Catamount Spirit • Class of 1953 Celebrates 60 Years

## Athletes Recognized for Contributions

Potomac State will induct three alumni into the Athletic Hall of Fame in recognition of their contributions to various athletic programs at the college level and beyond. The annual banquet will be held on Saturday, April 20 at the Davis Conference Center. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. while dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Current sophomore athletes will be recognized during this time as well. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Patty Lee at 304-788-6873 or at 800-262-7332, ext. 6873 or at [Patty.Lee@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Patty.Lee@mail.wvu.edu) by April 15. The cost for the dinner is \$20 per person. Former athletes being inducted this year include: Tonney Gardner (1985), Geno Guerrieri (1992) and Robert "Bob" Sirk (1956).



### Tonney Gardner, Class of '85

Tonney Gardner attended Potomac State from 1983 to 1985 and while here played on the Catamounts basketball team where he averaged 16 points per game during his freshman year, with 21 points and 10 rebounds per game during his sophomore year. Tonney was named to the All-Region Team after leading the Catamounts to a 22-4 record in 1985. Then-Coach Lindy Shank had this

to say, "Tonney is the best player that has been at the College in the past 30 years." After completing his studies at Potomac State, Tonney was offered and accepted a full scholarship to St. Peters College in N.J. where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing. He earned his MBA from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa. Tonney currently works as a sourcing logistics consultant for DuPont Corporation in Wilmington, Del.



### Robert 'Bob' Sirk, Class of '56

Bob Sirk attended Potomac State from 1954 to 1956 and will be honored posthumously. Bob played football, baseball and basketball and was named to the All-American Football Team; his selection was by the Williamson Rating System. Then-Coach Dana "Horse" Lough presented Bob with a plaque signed by Joseph D.M. Williamson in recognition of his athletic

accomplishments. Bob earned his bachelor's degree from Shepherd College and his master's degree from Marshall University. After a career of teaching math and coaching in Hampshire County, W.Va., Bob worked as a construction foreman with Shockey Company out of Winchester, Va.

## Wouldn't You Love to Own Your Own Potomac State Golf Bag?

### Raffle Tickets

\$5 each or 3 for \$10

All proceeds benefit the Potomac State College Alumni Association. Drawing will be held at the Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet on April 20, 2013. You do not have to be present to win. Contact Libby Nichols at 304-788-6870 or at 800-262-7332, ext. 6870 or at [lnichols@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:lnichols@mail.wvu.edu)



### Geno Guerrieri, Class of '92

Geno Guerrieri attended Potomac State from 1990 to 1992 and while here played on the Catamounts football team, where he served as quarterback for both his freshman and sophomore years. In 1991, Geno was named J. C. Grid-Wire Scholar/Athlete All-American. Geno credits former Coach Donnie Tucker with his triumph as a college athlete, stating, "He took me under

his direction and made me into the quarterback that I became. Without his knowledge and leadership, I would not have been the successful quarterback that I became at Potomac State and then later at Fairmont State." Since graduating from Fairmont State University in Fairmont, W.Va., Geno has worked in athletics and in the field of criminal justice for more than 15 years. He is the current chief of police in White Hall, W.Va. and is part-owner of a construction company, Visions In Design LLC. Geno also serves as president of the Fairmont State Athletic Association.

## Richard Ball to be Added to Scholars' Wall This Spring



Alumnus Richard Ball, Class of '56, will be recognized on Sunday, April 21, with the inscription of his name on the 'Duke Anthony Whitmore/Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Academic Achievement Wall.' Richard currently serves as Professor of Administration of Justice and Program Coordinator for Penn State University, Penn State Fayette on the Eberly Campus.

Richard earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from West Virginia University (WVU), and his Ph.D. in sociology, with a concentration in criminology, from The Ohio State University.

Richard was the recipient of the Commendation Award from the Adjutant General's School, U.S. Army, for exemplary leadership; he received the 'Outstanding Researcher Award' from WVU's College of Arts and Sciences, and the 'Scholarly Excellence Award' from Penn State-Fayette.

He has been the recipient of numerous grants and contracts, has been published extensively in books, periodicals and reports and has also given professional presentations. Richard is currently working on three different research activities.



## Hospitality Students Intern in Hawaii

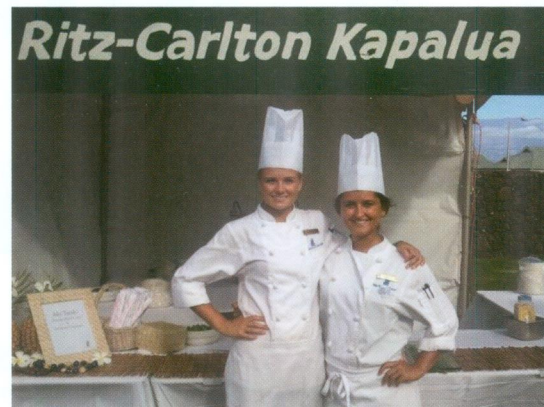
Amanda Bennett (left) and Lasidi Helmick met while enrolled in the Hospitality and Tourism Program at Potomac State College. They soon became fast-friends as they peeled, poached, braised, and cooked their way through exotic dishes, so it's no surprise that they decided to do their internship together at the world-renowned Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, in Maui, Hawaii.

Bennett and Helmick began their internships in May 2012. Some of their duties included catering weddings, food, wine tastings and various other events. When asked, "Why Hawaii?" Bennett replied, "We didn't need a passport to get there and – why not? It's Hawaii!"

Bennett worked as a garde manger chef and according to [gardemanger.com](http://gardemanger.com), "Garde Manger is considered by many to be the most demanding station/job in any kitchen. Garde Mangers need to be able to apply proper seasoning to food that is going to be served cold, and in other cases, season food that is going to be served hot. Many chefs have the ability to season hot food, but lack the ability to season both correctly."

"It was a little overwhelming when I first arrived," said Bennett, "but Chef Thomas' classes really prepared me for the fast-paced work the Ritz-Carlton had me doing."

Helmick returned home after completing her internship; however, Bennett was offered and accepted full-time employment in Hawaii. "I would encourage other students in the hospitality field to do their internships at a location they would like to explore and possibly live someday," said Bennett.



## Creators of McNeill's Rangers Reunite

*McNeill's Rangers* is an original musical production by PSC Music Professor John Hawkins, Ph.D. and Vana Nespor, Ph.D. who serves as the Dean of the School of Professional and Adult Studies at Bay Path College in Longmeadow, Mass.

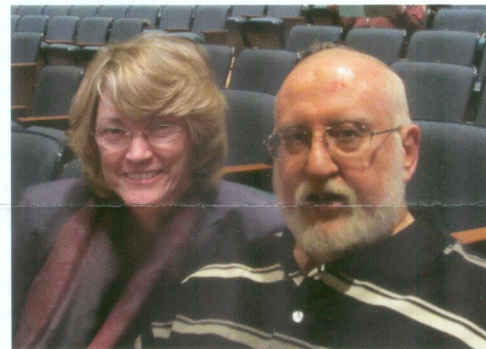
While spending time in the Petersburg and Keyser, W.Va. areas, Dr. Nespor began researching the history behind McNeill's Rangers to discover their connection to the local area during the time of the Civil War. Her research culminated in a book and lyrics, with music composed by Dr. Hawkins.

"I was struck by the humor, love, honor, and pain of the stories surrounding McNeill's Rangers and between those who fought with and against the Rangers. I wondered how people found it in their hearts to forgive and embrace those who had hurt them so deeply. I came to believe that it is when we have the ability to come together to honor and rejoice in our stories that we are able to rise above our pain and embrace a new future full of possibilities," said Dr. Nespor.

The musical was first performed in 1984 in conjunction with Apple Alley Players. It was performed at the College for the first time this spring.

*McNeill's Rangers* is set 25 years after the Civil War has ended. A reunion has been planned for aging ex-Confederate and Union soldiers which makes for an interesting get-together with a rehashing of events leading up to the death of Captain John Hanson, who served as the original leader of McNeill's Rangers. Comic relief is provided as well with the antics of Otis, who likes his corn liquor a little too much, and his wife, Gertie, who tries to keep her rascal of a husband under control.

"Food, fun, song, and reconciliation are the themes that wander their way throughout the production; however, at the heart of *McNeill's Rangers* is a clearing of the air, burying the hatchet and reconciliation," said Dr. Hawkins.



## Yoder Scholarship Assists Engineering Majors

By Student Worker Aimee Conley

The Yoders established the Mark and Diane Yoder Engineering Scholarship in June 2006 as a way of assisting pre-engineering majors from Mineral County, W.Va. and Allegany County, Md. To date, seven scholarships have been awarded to PSC students.

Mark graduated from Potomac State in 1983. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from West Virginia University in environmental engineering. Mark currently serves as the utilities division chief of Allegany County in Cumberland, Md.

Diane attended Allegany College earning a degree in medical laboratory technology and nursing. She is employed by the Western Maryland Health System as a registered nurse. They both agreed that they, "...enjoy meeting and talking with the recipients about their future plans."

Anyone interested in establishing a scholarship should contact Libby Nichols at 304-788-6870 or 800-262-7332, ext. 6870 or at [lmnichols@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:lmnichols@mail.wvu.edu).

## Class of 1953 Celebrates 60 Years

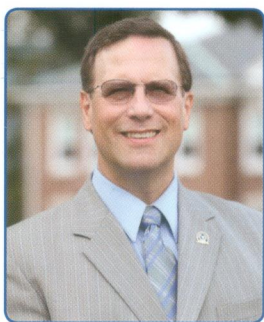
A note from Classmates Dolly Cox and Richard Cardot

*Since we'll be celebrating our 60th reunion this year, we would like to see as many alumni as possible attend Homecoming 2013 on October 12 this fall. Several events are being planned for your enjoyment. On Friday, October 11 there will be a '50s Get Together of all alumni who attended Potomac State during that time period. On Saturday morning a brunch and recognition of those who graduated 50, 25 and 10 years ago will be held and there is usually some type of athletic event Saturday afternoon. The culmination of the weekend is the Homecoming Banquet where the achievements of alumni are recognized. Of course, Homecoming is a celebration of all alumni but we especially encourage all graduates of the Class of 1953 to attend – we would love to see all of you and catch up with one another. See you in the fall!*



# Campus Provost Leonard Colelli to Address 2013 Graduating Class

Commencement  
May 11, 2013



Leonard Colelli, Ph.D., Campus Provost at Potomac State College, will address the 2013 graduating class on Saturday, May 11 at 11 a.m. in the Church-McKee Arts Center.

"It seems fitting that Dr. Colelli deliver the graduation speech during commencement since this is his first year as provost of the College," stated Interim Dean of Curriculum and Instruction Phil Douthitt.

Dr. Colelli began his tenure on July 1, 2012 and has demonstrated a strong commitment for the continued advancement of Potomac State's mission through the implementation of several programs including additional professional development opportunities for faculty, engaging students in study abroad programs, cultivating relationships with businesses and members of the surrounding community, and generating student participation in external internships. Dr. Colelli earned his doctorate from The Ohio State University, his master's from the University of Maryland and his bachelor's degree from California University of Pennsylvania.

## Students Attend National Equestrian Convention in Kansas

By Lindsey Weese (PSC Student Worker) and Debi Swick-Cruse

Jared Miller (right), who serves as the advisor for the Equestrian Club at the College and Equine Studies Instructor, escorted six students to Kansas this past winter for the 2013 American Collegiate Horseman Association's National Convention. The students, pictured right, gathered in the lobby of Peeper Ranch before their tour of the facilities. Those attending the convention for the first time included (kneeling from left): Holly Cook and Julia Miles; (back row) Rebecca Mathews, Stephanie Summits, Amber Payne, and Briana Hannon.

Colleges attending the convention participated in a scrapbook competition; the PSC Equestrian Club placed second. The group also toured several facilities including: Peeper Ranch, a 50,000 plus, square-foot riding facility (the largest in Kansas City); Heartland Therapeutic Riding Facility, a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship center that provides equine-assisted therapy for children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities; Stonecrest Farm, a thoroughbred breeding and racing farm; and Lone Wolf Ranch.

While visiting Lone Wolf Ranch, they watched reining demonstrations by Brent Wright, a National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) \$1 million rider, a NRHA Derby Champion and Futurity Reserve Champion, and National Reining Breeders Classic Reserve Champion; and Brad Lund, a three-time American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Superhorse World Champion and a multiple AQHA World Champion rider and trainer, as he performed roping demonstrations.



## Changes Coming to "Catamount Spirit" Alumni Newsletter

The "Catamount Spirit" is making a leap from print to Internet and in the future will be available exclusively on the College's web site at [www.potomacstatecollege.edu](http://www.potomacstatecollege.edu). Anyone who can not access the newsletter via website can contact Libby Nichols at 304-788-6870 or 800-262-7332, ext. 6870 or at [lmnichols@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:lmnichols@mail.wvu.edu).

From the Potomac State Homepage, click on Alumni & Friends beneath the 'Communities' tab. Then, under the 'Recommended Links' tab, click on "Catamount Spirit" Newsletter.

We ask that you continue to support the PSC Alumni Association financially. The Alumni Board is taking measures to continue their mission of fostering the traditions and growth of Potomac State College of West Virginia University and staying connected with alumni through events such as regional dinners, bus trips and campus events.

Sometimes alumni ask how they can get involved. Below is a list to act as a guideline. If you have other ideas you would like to share or want to know more about these opportunities, please contact Libby Nichols.

- Refer a student
- Update your contact information
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- Tell us your story
- Submit nominations for Alumni Achievement, Young Alumni, Distinguished Service, Scholars' Wall, and Athletic Hall of Fame awards
- Organize an alumni dinner in your area
- Participate in alumni events
- Volunteer as a speaker or mentor
- Encourage others to get involved

The next issue of the "Catamount Spirit" will be posted on-line September 2013.



## 2013 Weekend of Honors Events

Potomac State College will soon be celebrating its Eighth Annual **Weekend of Honors** beginning April 18 – 21. Leading the events this year is the celebration for the **Outstanding Staff Person of the Year**, with a reception on Thursday, April 18 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in the Davis Conference Center. The **Outstanding Professor of the Year Reception** will be held at the Candlewyck Inn, also on Thursday from 4 – 6 p.m. The **women's softball team** will play a doubleheader with Chesapeake Community College at Stayman Field beginning at 4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 20** will offer a variety of activities including a **doubleheader baseball game** at Golden Park, pitting the PSC Catamounts against Monroe College with a starting time of 1 p.m. Later that evening, current student athletes will be honored while former athletes will be inducted into the **Athletic Hall of Fame** at the **Annual Awards Banquet**. The banquet requires reservations and should be made by April 12 by calling Patty Lee at 304-788-6873 or 800-262-7332, extension 6873, or by emailing her at [Patty.Lee@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Patty.Lee@mail.wvu.edu). Social hour is at 6 p.m. with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m.; the cost is \$20 per person.

**Sunday, April 21** will offer a full day of activities as well. The **Catamounts baseball team** will face Chesapeake College at 2 p.m. The **Scholars' Wall Recognition Program** will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the 'Wall' between Academy Hall and the Administration Building; the **Student Recognition Day Ceremony** begins at 3:30 p.m. in the Church-McKee Arts Center; and the **Sigma Phi Omega Banquet** begins at 5 p.m. in the Davis Conference Center. The banquet also requires reservations and can be made by contacting Vicki Huffman at 304-788-6971; the cost is \$15 per person. The deadline for making reservations is April 15.

### Faculty Made a Difference, Alumni Asked to "Pay it Forward"

For many years, Dr. Elizabeth Atwater was known for making extra efforts to help students who were finding college life to be very challenging even if they weren't in her classes. One student, Al Barbano '65, had many sessions with her during his first semester, and he credits her with helping him to give college life his best effort.

"I was a city kid from North Jersey and had a tough time getting into college at all. At first, I just wanted to quit, but Dr. Atwater had long talks with me about my future. She'd give me assignments for our next meeting and by the end of the sixth week, I had actually come to enjoy school work and life in Keyser," recalled Al.

With conviction, Al said, "I shall never forget Potomac State and especially Dr. Atwater. I am so grateful and want to help others when they're at Potomac State. To do that, I've included a gift in my will." Many feel as Al does about Potomac State and want to assure that more students benefit as they have. A gift provision in their will or revocable trust that uses the wording of "to the WVU Foundation (FEIN 55-6017181) for the benefit of Potomac State College of WVU" is a good way to make that happen.

"My career was in engineering sales and recruiting for 35 years. I traveled all over the U.S.A. for my work and sometimes my wife Irene came along," said Al. "I know my career successes wouldn't have happened if Dr. Atwater hadn't reached out to save me from going backwards to nothing. She helped me more than she'll ever know and that's why I want to pay it forward."